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SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Sir, may I know if betting on New York Cotton prizes is more remunerative than solving cross-word puzzles and if so, what is the comparative dividend paid in each ? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" How does this arise out of the main question ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I have no personal experience of either. If the hon. Member could communicate his experience, I am prepared to take it."

Handloom workers' strike in Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar.

* 1389 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to bring about a settlement between the handloom workers and factory-owners of Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar, in view of the strike situation?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" On receipt of reports regarding the closure of the handloom factories in Chirakkal taluk, etc., the Commissioner of Labour was asked to take up conciliation. The Commissioner of Labour who enquired into the matter advised the workers to resume work. The workers accordingly resumed work. It is since reported that all the factories that had to be closed due to strike have re-opened."

Restoration of the wage-cut to the handloom weavers of Chirakkal taluk, Malabar.

* 1390 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN (on behalf of Sri P. K. Gopalakrishnan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the handloom weavers of Chirakkal taluk, Malabar district, regarding wage-cut; and

(b) the steps the Government have taken to restore the wage-cut?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) As it is open to the workers to seek redress by filing complaints for short payment under the Payment of Wages Act or under section 33-A of the Industrial Disputes Act, no interference on the part of the Government was considered necessary."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, are Government aware of the fact that even now the factory-owners are taking forcible signatures from the workers consenting to reduction of wages of the workers? "

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would suggest to the workers or their union to place the matter before the Labour Officer and Government will take necessary action in the matter."

Tuberculosis centres in the City of Madras.

* 1391 *Q*.—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of tuberculosis centres in the City of Madras maintained by the Government;

(*b*) the amount of subsidy given to the Corporation of Madras for maintaining their tuberculosis centres in the year 1952 and what is the number of centres maintained by them; and

(*c*) the total number of patients treated outside and the in-patients admitted in the year 1952?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) One, Sir.

" (*b*) No subsidy was given to the Corporation by the Government for maintaining Tuberculosis clinics. But a subsidy of Rs. 12,500 is being paid to the Corporation of Madras for the maintenance of the Tuberculosis Hospital, Konnur High Road, maintained by the Corporation.

In the year 1952, the Corporation of Madras maintained one Tuberculosis hospital and five Tuberculosis clinics.

" (*c*) In the year 1952, 981 patients received in-patient treatment and 30,022 patients received out-patient treatment in the Tuberculosis institutions in the City of Madras."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, since the number of tuberculosis hospitals and clinics maintained is too meagre to meet the demands of the patients in Madras, is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that in many cases the cards for admission are sent to patients after they reach their graves? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It is true we have a fairly long list of waiting patients. The Government have at Tambaram a big sanatorium which is admittedly the biggest in this country and we are maintaining a Tubeculosis institute at Egmore for out-patient treatment."

Aid to Christian Backward Classes.

* 1392 *Q*.—SRI ANTONY PETER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether all the economic and educational facilities enjoyed by the Hindu Backward Classes are extended to Christian Backward Classes; and

(*b*) if not, why not?